



**CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**TAIERI MOUTH  
RECREATION RESERVE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**26 June 2003**

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## **1 PREFACE**

The Taieri Mouth Recreation Reserve Draft Management Plan is a guide for the future development, maintenance and management of the reserve. Prepared under the Reserves Act 1977, it is intended to facilitate the provision of outdoor recreation activities and public enjoyment whilst retaining the open space value of the reserve.

In preparing this plan, recreation opportunities and facilities within the reserve were evaluated with consideration of how they contribute to the broad spectrum of recreation activities within the Taieri Mouth area for local people and visitors alike.

The aim of the plan is to facilitate the best management of the reserve by providing guidelines for control, use maintenance, preservation, conservation, development and planning.

Council approved the Taieri Mouth Recreation Reserve Management Plan on 26 June 2003.

This plan is operative from 2003 to 2013 and will remain under regular review during this period to meet the above aim.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

This management plan is for the Taieri Mouth Recreation Reserve located at Taieri Mouth and vested in the Clutha District Council.

### **2.1 Location of Reserve**

- The reserve is located adjacent to Moturata Road, Taieri Mouth, Clutha District.
- Taieri Mouth is 35 kms south of Dunedin City.
- The location of the reserve is shown in the map attached as Appendix 2.

### **2.2 Legal Description**

The legal description of the reserve:

- Pt Sec 11 Blk XXIV Waihola SD SO 9766
- Pt Sec 11 Blk XXIV Waihola SD SO 9125
- Sec 9 Blk XXIV Waihola SD 9125
- Lot 2 DP 3157 & Lot 3 DP 3157
- Sec 13 Blk XXIV Waihola SD SO 21789

The area of 13.6627 hectares is designated within the Clutha District Plan as Recreation Reserve. Reserve (Domain), status was formally gazetted in 1939, Page 1443. The Reserve is designated as R76 District Reserve & R76 Open Space Passive in the draft CDC Reserves Strategy document.

### **2.3 Purpose of Management Plan**

The management plan is intended to minimise conflict and interference between differing recreational users whilst maintaining or improving the quality of the existing recreation environment.

### **2.4 Need for Recreation Reserve**

Recreation reserves should provide for the recreational needs of the resident community whilst also meeting the demands of visitors and holiday home owners.

## **3 MANAGEMENT AIM**

The basis for the management of reserves is explained in the Reserves Act 1977.

That is:

- To provide for the recreation activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and the beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities.

The aim of this management plan is to provide a comprehensive framework for the provision of recreation opportunities in the Taieri Mouth area.

## **4 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

Management objectives provide a framework in which management aims can be achieved. It is fundamental to reserve management that objectives and policies are clearly defined, so decisions regarding any activity proposed or carried out on the reserve are taken in accordance with those objectives and policies.

**Subject to and in addition to the management plan in Section 9 for the reserve, the following objectives and policies apply.**

### **4.1 General**

- To manage the reserve in perpetuity in such a way that recreational qualities will contribute to the distinctiveness and diversity of the community and to the extent they are compatible with conservation values.
- To provide a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities.
- To minimise conflict and interference between recreationalists.
- To offer forms of recreation experience that alternative sites in the vicinity cannot provide.
- To maintain and improve the quality of the existing recreation environment.
- To manage the reserve in accordance with its classification of Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

### **4.2 Use**

- To promote and facilitate use of the reserve based on identifiable recreational demands that are compatible with the character and sustainability of the resource.

### **4.3 Public Access**

- To permit freedom of public access to the reserve except as limited by the terms of any lease of the reserve or District By-Law.
- To facilitate public access to the reserve at a level that can be sustained without detriment to the natural resource or quality of recreation experience.

### **4.4 Open Space**

- To manage and promote the open space value of the reserve.

#### **4.5 Protection**

- To manage and protect the natural amenity values of the reserve.

### **5 MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

Management policies are statements of intent describing what will, or will not, be done to achieve objectives.

#### **5.1 Administration**

The reserve is administered as a recreation reserve under the control of the Clutha District Council. Input from local organisations, committees, or individuals having suitable expertise and interest in the reserve, are evaluated on an individual basis. It is important to co-ordinate management to ensure recreation opportunities and provisions continue at a satisfactory level.

#### **5.2 Key Relationships**

It is important to acknowledge and maintain relationships which exist with the Otago Regional Council, Moturata Whanau of Te Runanga o Otakou, Taieri Mouth Amenities Society (Inc), Department of Conservation, Pikao Recovery Group, other interest groups, and the residents of the Taieri Mouth area.

#### **5.3 Leases and Licence to Occupy**

Leasing of reserve areas enables sports organisations, private enterprises or community organisations to provide for facilities for the public. It can also provide revenue for the administering body that can be applied to future development and maintenance of the reserve.

Part Section 9, SO 9125, Blk XXIV, an area of approximately one hectare, is leased as the Taieri Mouth Holiday Camp. The lease was signed effective from 27 July 2001 and expires on 31 March 2009. The Lessee is responsible for all maintenance and outgoings in respect to the premises, buildings, and improvements within the area leased for camping ground purposes.

Further future interest by organisations or enterprises to lease or obtain licences to occupy reserves are required to meet requirements outlined in Sections 54, 67, 73, 74 of the Reserves Act 1977.

#### **5.4 Signs**

- To erect a minimum number of information and/or interpretive signs required of a type which complements the landscape.
- To adopt a uniform design and standard for signs on recreation reserves within the Clutha District Council area utilising internationally recognised symbols.

- To prohibit the erection of signs not consistent with the use and purpose of the recreation reserve.

## **5.5 Prohibited Activities**

Certain activities are restricted or prohibited because of the effects they may have on the reserve or upon public enjoyment. The Reserves Act 1977, Council By-Laws and Policy determine which activities are specified as prohibited in this management plan.

- To prohibit overnight camping other than within the designated camping ground.
- To prohibit the lighting of fires other than in approved barbecues or fireplaces as provided.

Uncontrolled fires are a hazard and threat to the surrounding flora and fauna, building structures and facilities, residential housing and human life. Restrictions on use will lower the chance of fires becoming out of control.

- To prohibit the removal or damage of any tree, shrub or plant material within the reserve without Council authorisation.

Vegetation is an important component of a reserves value. Reserves are for the enjoyment of the public, not for the needs of individuals or organisations acting in their own interest. Council may authorise the removal of any plant in the reserve that could be a threat to biodiversity, dune stability or existing amenity values.

- To prohibit dogs in the reserve other than those in the custody, charge or control of a personage, and that dogs are led on a leash or are under adequate control by other means. This prohibition is also enforceable under the Clutha District Council Dog Control Bylaws. It is also the responsibility of the same personage to remove any faecal matter the dog may produce.

## **5.6 Modes of Transport**

The plan identifies whether or not:

- To prohibit horses on the reserves tracks and walkways.
- To prohibit vehicular and motorbike access off formed roads.
- To prohibit mountain bikes on tracks and walkways designated for pedestrian use.
- To permit freedom of pedestrian access on the reserve.

Refer to 9.6 to clarify intent.

## **5.7 Maintenance**

The general appearance and up-keep of this reserve is an issue of concern. Reserves need to be maintained to a standard which facilitates safe and

enjoyable usage. Maintenance issues include mowing, weed control, control of noxious animals/pests, tree management, drainage and ground conditions.

The reserve contains two main parks, Knarston and Livingstonia, which are maintained by the Council and contain Public Toilets and a playground. There are other areas of the reserve that are maintained from time to time by mowing. The smaller Sawmill Park has been affected by road realignment required for new bridge construction over Duckbend (Sawmill Creek).

- To continue grass maintenance of the reserve by mowing.
- To delegate, employ or contract necessary maintenance work out to an individual, organisation or volunteer group organised by the Clutha District Council.

## **6 RESERVE DESCRIPTION**

### **6.1 Physical Description**

- The reserve is located on the true right bank of the Taieri River below the bridge and follows around the coastline to the south of the township.
- The first component is Knarston Park, then sand dunes leading to the area occupied by the Taieri Mouth Holiday Camp, thence a continuation of dunes southwards leading to Sawmill Park, and then Livingstonia Park.
- The highest point within the reserve is less than ten metres above sea level.
- The outlook seaward from the reserve is dominated by Moturata Island.

### **6.2 Flora**

The mown areas in Knarston Park, Livingstonia Park, the Holiday Camp, and other open spaces, comprise mixed grasses. The sand dune area is primarily covered with Marram Grass, Lupin, some Pingao planting (by the Pikao Recovery Group), and sedges.

Of particular note is the very extensive coverage of *Muehlenbeckia australis* (Pohuehue), throughout the non-mown areas of the reserve. There is evidence it is smothering much of the growth on the dunes from around twenty metres back from the "normal" high tide mark. The effects of the *Muehlenbeckia* extend to some of the lower branches of the line of mainly Pines on the eastern edge of Livingstonia Park and onto Blue Gums at Knarston Park. There are some areas of Old Mans Beard (*Clematis vitalba*). Control measures (spraying) were carried out in 1996.

Some small areas of Fern and pockets of Bush Lawyer (*Rubus schmidelioides*) are also present within the reserve.

There is an area of saltmarsh/coastal wetland plants to be found alongside Duckbend (Sawmill Creek).



### **6.3 Fauna**

The sand dune area supports a population of rabbits, evidenced by the scratching throughout the reserve and especially on the tracks leading out onto the beach. There has been some control work (shooting) carried out in the past. Rabbit control in the reserve is important for keeping Moturata Island rabbit free.

The usual range of sea birds can be observed on the beach and around the river. The beach is a stronghold for Variable Oystercatchers which are known to nest in the area. Dogs can have a major impact on these birds during this time (December-January), and the public should be encouraged to maintain dogs on a lead during this period.

The sandy beach is a haul out area for NZ Sea Lions and Seals from time to time.

## **7 PRESENT USE AND FACILITIES**

### **7.1 Camping Ground**

The Camping Ground is leased as the Taieri Mouth Holiday Camp. As such the responsibility for the maintenance of the facilities and grounds is that of the lessee. The camp is well set out and maintained. A track leads from the camp out through the sand dunes onto the beach. The coverage of Muehlenbeckia within this area is also extensive. Signage for the camp is adequate.

The lessees have invested in water treatment equipment to improve the drinking quality of the water supply to the camp.

The grassed area of the camp adjacent to Moturata Road is low lying and is susceptible to becoming very wet on occasions.

### **7.2 Children's Playground**

The Children's Playground is located in Livingstonia Park and is well maintained and in good condition. There is loose metal fill within a boarded "fall area". This is a very popular facility especially during holiday periods.



*Children's playground at Livingstonia Park*

### **7.3 Other Uses and Facilities**

At the entrance to Knarston Park there is a concrete block toilet facility with a single flush and wash basin each for male and female users. This facility is in good order and is cleaned on a regular basis by the Council's contractor. Within the park there are two fireplaces (BBQ), on metal stands, two relatively new picnic tables, and two rubbish bins.

This large grassed area is mown by the Council's contractor as required. The metal road into the park is graded from time to time and also provides access to two adjacent residential properties. The level of maintenance to this metalled access "road" may be minimal. Erosion control has been required along this stretch of the reserve with the Taieri River.



*Knarston Park entrance road*

Knarston Park is well suited for picnics and similar gatherings with excellent access to the Taieri River and beach beyond. There is a sign stating “No Camping” but such activity is known to occur and must be actively discouraged.



*Signage at entrance to Knarston Park*

The signage at the entrance to the park is in poor condition. A notice asks for donations to assist with the upkeep of the grounds. There is also a small information “kiosk”. At the river mouth end of the park there is a Department of Conservation sign with information relating to Moturata Island.

The beach and sand dunes, which stretch southwards around the coast from Knarston Park provide, subject to tides (and river level), excellent walking opportunities as well as access for fishing, swimming, surfing, and relaxation.

Walking seems especially popular. It is likely that there is some mountain biking and motor cycle activity within the dune system, and along the beach.

A fenced tennis court is located just outside the north west boundary of the Holiday Camp adjacent to Moturata Road. The surface of the tennis court is very badly broken and cracked. The fence surrounding the tennis court is in good condition.

Throughout the length of the reserve there are several tracks (walkways), through the sand dunes providing access to the beach. These require mowing and trimming, especially prior to and during the holiday season.

Sawmill Park is located adjacent to Duckbend (Sawmill Creek) (on the seaward side), and appears to receive minimal maintenance. Construction of a future new traffic bridge and consequent realignment of Moturata Road is likely to have an impact on this area.

Livingstonia Park is located at the southern end of the reserve off Palmer Place. There is a block wall either side of the entranceway. The entry signage is in very poor condition. There is a 50c-honesty container at the entrance. The park is an extensive and well-maintained grass area suited to picnics and gatherings. Like Knarston, it is likely that camping takes place in the park.

Midway down the sealed access road there is a single toilet facility, which is maintained by contractor and is in good order. Adjacent to the access road is an old concrete block fireplace, which is in poor condition. There are two rubbish bins located within the park.

The Children's Playground is covered in section **7.2**.

On the eastern side of the park there are several tracks leading past a line of predominantly pine trees through the sand dunes to the beach. These trees extend the full length of the eastern boundary of Livingstonia Park and are up to approximately 20 metres in height.

These trees have been the subject of significant local discussion, meetings and divergence of views.

The tracks to the beach are marked with signs on the eastern boundary of the grassed area.



*Beach to Livingstonia Park access track*

There is an old shed near the western boundary with residential properties, and a small water supply tank. This tank has a CDC notice “Unsuitable for Drinking – boil...”

## **8 ADJOINING LAND USES AND ALTERNATIVES**

The reserve is located on the seaward side of Moturata Road.

Adjoining land use on the western boundary is either residential homes (permanent or holiday), and vacant sections.

The north eastern/eastern boundary is either the Taieri River or Pacific Ocean.

Given the status of the reserve (recreation), there is no obvious conflict with the adjoining land use.

## 9 MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 9.1 Vegetation

Concerns were expressed in public submissions about the replacement of the Pine “shelter belt” at Livingstonia Park. Submitters commented that they thought agreement had previously been reached to replace the existing trees and that funds had been set aside. A simple but effective replanting plan should ensure the establishment of new shelter trees on the seaward side of the present line of mainly Pines.



*Shelter Trees at Livingstonia Park*

As such the plan allows for the following.

- a) New plantings will require a commitment for tending and maintenance, especially to prevent *Muehlenbeckia* from overcoming establishing seedlings. Assistance from the Taieri Mouth Amenities Society (Inc.) to achieve this might be possible.
- b) The Pines will be felled. The removal of the timber will be completed thoroughly. Any proceeds from the timber recovered will be used for improvements ie: new signage, picnic tables etc.
- c) A significant number of “hardened” seedlings will be planted. Advice will be sought from a professional on a suitable species, and the concentration of plantings required to replace the existing shelter trees.

The tree selected will have an excellent tolerance to wind and salt, be fast growing, and able to be trimmed.

\$1,000 is included in the 2004/2005 Annual Plan for weed control of Old Mans Beard, and Muehlenbeckia adjacent to the Livingstonia Park shelter trees.

## **9.2 Toilet Facilities**

Submitter comment is that the single toilet at Livingstonia Park is insufficient to cope with frequent large groups of picnickers and visitors. The cost of providing an additional toilet is likely to be in the vicinity of \$20,000 to \$40,000.

All proposals will be fully investigated as to the actual requirements, options and designs available, and the source/level of funding.

In the interim, better water storage for the existing toilet at Livingstonia Park is to be investigated.

## **9.3 Camping Ground**

Maintenance and improvement of camping ground facilities is the responsibility of the lessee(s). They have already demonstrated their willingness to carry out improvements by upgrading the quality of the water supply to the camping ground.

The lessees are commended on their initiative in carrying out this work.

## **9.4 Children's Playground**

The children's playground is well maintained. This will be continued and monitored as there are safety compliance issues associated with this facility. There is no need to "expand" the playground, as it does seem to be adequate.

## **9.5 Signs**

In consultation with the Taieri Mouth Amenities Society, all signage will be upgraded to an agreed CDC reserves standard and style utilising international symbols.

Walkways to the beach are to be adequately marked and an allowance for signage in year 2004/2005 of \$4,000 has been provided.

## **9.6 Walkways**

There are long established access points and use patterns on and through the reserve to the beach with minimal user conflict or environmental impact apparent. The beach is very popular for a wide range of activities including horse riding and walking. Access to the beach is essential for safety reasons and servicing the Moturata Island re-vegetation project.

Access points will be signed accordingly. It is therefore appropriate to maintain the present situation:

- To permit horses on the grassed areas of the reserve and access through the reserve via signed walkways to and from the beach.
- To permit vehicular and motorbike access off formed roads onto the beach especially for specific purposes ie: safety and servicing the Moturata Island re-vegetation project.
- To permit bicycles within the grassed areas of the reserve and to and from the beach via signed walkways.
- To permit freedom of pedestrian access throughout the reserve.

All walkways providing access to the beach may be mown and trimmed on a regular basis, especially prior to holiday periods. Monitoring of these walkways to be carried out on a regular basis to ensure that excessive use does not lead to erosion or user conflict.

Access points to the beach walkways to be adequately sign posted with the appropriate information. (see section 9.5)

### **9.7 Lighting of Fires**

Fires will only be permitted in approved BBQ's or fireplaces as provided.

### **9.8 Erosion Control Measures**

Erosion control work has been carried out by the Otago Regional Council in association with the Clutha District Council on the north eastern side of Knarston Park. Rock has been placed along a section which has been subjected to scouring by the Taieri River at times of higher than normal flows. Exceptionally high tides may have also contributed to this damage which currently appears stabilised but will be monitored informally.

It should be noted that areas of the sand dunes on the seaward boundary of the reserve are being subjected to erosion. This may be due to the frequency of high rough seas, and/or, a combination of high seas and possible rising sea levels.

Given certain conditions the opening to the sea for Duckbend (Sawmill) Creek closes off. There is a need to ensure that in these circumstances prompt corrective action is taken to open the outflow to the sea. The Otago Regional Council's Regional Plan: Coast for Otago makes this action a permitted activity. Duckbend (Sawmill) Creek provides valuable habitat for native fish such as Inanga.

The effects of high seas, river and creek outflows will be monitored informally to ensure that any adverse effects are addressed promptly.—.



## **9.9 General Maintenance**

Concerns were expressed by submitters about the frequency of grass cutting and trimming. It was also suggested that responsive maintenance does need to be improved ie: long standing broken locks on the Knarston Park toilets, and the access "road" into the park requiring grading/potholes filled.

It was suggested in a submission that a small number of native trees be planted in Knarston Park to provide shade and that some simple landscaping be carried out.

Planned maintenance as set out in the Annual Plan will be carried out as proposed.

The provision of advice as to what is proposed and when, to the Taieri Mouth Amenities Society will be of value in building the relationship with Council.

The frequency and level of general maintenance undertaken for Taieri Mouth Recreation Reserve will be reviewed following an inspection with the Council's contractor to see if any improvements can be achieved in a cost effective manner.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

In considering this Management Plan the over riding factor must be the funding of any initial improvements/upgrading and subsequent maintenance costs.

There is a limit to expenditure given the ability and commitment of the existing ratepayers to meet the costs now and into the future.

## APPENDIX 1 - Budget

### Taieri Mouth Recreation Reserve Management Plan

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>1 Toilets</b>											
1.1 Routine Maintenance & requis.	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
<i>Does not include extra cleans</i>											
1.2 Increased general maint. Livingstonia Park - investigate need for extra toilet 2003/04	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
1.3 Single toilet addition if required			\$40,000								
<b>2 Parks &amp; Reserves</b>											
2.1 Routine as req approx	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
2.2 Grading & potholes 2x/yr	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
2.3 Trimming beach access 3x/yr	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
2.4 Increased grass cutting	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
2.5 Ltd landscaping Knarston Prk	\$ 250	\$ 250									
2.6 Livingstonia Shelter Belt	\$ 8,000										
2.7 Replace Signs/Info Panels		\$ 4,000									
2.8 Weed Control		\$ 1,000									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,800</b>	<b>\$10,800</b>	<b>\$46,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>

*\*Inflation and vandalism have not been allowed for*

**APPENDIX 2 – Map of Area**